

The Groundplane

SBARA—The South Bay Amateur Radio Association
KU6S Newsletter

May, 2012
Volume 13, Issue 5



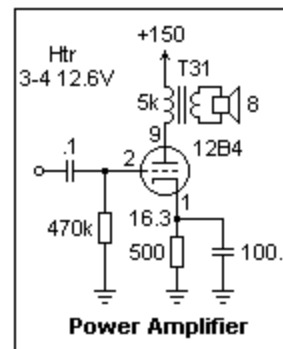
Presidents Message

It's April 29th, Sunday late morning, and I'm sitting on a picnic table at Mt Diablo state park with Darryl KI6LDM, conducting "Parachute Control" during Parachute Mobile's eleventh mission. It's around 11:15 am now, and we just completed setting up our stations. A minute ago we announced being operational. Several UHF and VHF radios (handhelds and mobile radios) will help us to connect with various repeaters, the drop zone ground crew, the jumpers and with hams who will try to contact airborne jumpers. We will do QSTs about the jumps and coordinate QSOs with the jumpers. For the time in between jumps, we also have set up a short wave radio station with an inverted vee as antenna. We have some time to kill before the first jumper is ready and safety checks are complete.

So, before we start pushing our daring jumpers out of perfectly working aircraft, I can tell you a bit about the last SBARA board meeting, which took place on Monday, April 23rd.

- The SBARA banner order had been delayed accidentally. It's definitely on order now, and actually we should be able to present it during the membership meeting.
- Our speaker for this month is Leroy Higgins, KI6MES, he will present some very impressive vacuum tubes and how they still are being used at the present.
- The tape measure antenna workshop project is complete: we will have the workshop on June 2nd. We are thinking about some more workshops, e.g. about Arduino projects or APRS tracker boxes. Would you be interested in something like that? Tell us!
- All parties involved in the administration of the WA6PWW / N6IMS repeater on 147.015 MHz have now agreed: we will start our new SBARA net on Monday May 14th (that's the Monday after the regular membership meeting). It will be started at 7:30 pm. Sorry that we had to postpone this again, but it took a while to get permission.
- Field day: We might not have a 10m station this year. This is still to be decided, but propagation isn't too promising at the moment.
- We also decided on an extra board meeting a week later (April 30th) to review our club gear. Please see the corresponding article by AI WT6K in this issue.

(cont'd. on Page 2).



Power Amplifier

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Special Points of Interest

HAM Nation Radio Show
SBARA Equipment Auction
English Language Association
Armed Forces Day Operating Event



We need you input for the next Groundplane!!

- Operating stories
- Station construction
- Operating accessories
- Product reviews
- Interesting contacts

Please consider putting an article together today for the Groundplane!!

Presidents Message (cont'd. from Page 1)

Oops, it's time: 12:25 pm, Jumper 1 (Mark AF6IM) just boarded the plane which will carry him up to thirteen thousand feet. See you later.

1:01 pm: I'm back. The jumper just landed safely. Mark had 19 contacts during his decent. Great success! Jumper 2 (Mike, KF6WRW) is already on a manifest for the next jump, he will carry video gear. Need to go again for a while, lots of traffic on our radios.

1:19 pm. Mike took off, jumped and had about ten contacts. He also broadcast a very good video signal which was streamed live to JustinTV (www.justin.tv/kf6wrw). He landed safely in the drop zone at Byron airport at 1:47 pm.

I've some time left. Well, sorry, but I will now use it to do some CW on HF. Here on Mount Diablo that should be great, some fun like field day.

3:00 pm. Back again! And I'm happy. Just had a contact with Portugal and another one with Tahiti. Both on 15 meters. I even heard a German station, however I couldn't contact him. I'm looking very much forward to field day! Now let's complete our jumps for today.

4:20 pm. We've completed two more jumps with some 33 QSOs in our logs, and our coordinator Rob, KC6TYD will now do a jump he calls "recreational", which means without radios with him (what?! Recreational *without radios*? Come on Rob!). For Darryl and me, it's time to break down our stations and leave Mt Diablo State Park. Yes, it was a grand day!



Image: Darryl KI6LDM and Bernhard AE6YN at Parachute Control on Mt Diablo

CQ Field Day ... from KU6S Field Day

Hello Fellow SBARA Members,

It's that time of year again. Yes, Field Day is this month, June 23rd and 24th (Friday the 22nd start the antenna, tent and equipment setup). It is the biggest event of the year for all SBARA members, their family and friends.

From a short discussion after the April SBARA meeting it was suggested to follow the station philosophy we used last year, i.e., one station per band...running high power (QRO).

I'm so pleased to see all the volunteers that have come forward and said they would set up a station for everyone to operate at the 2012 SBARA Field Day.

Satellite - Umesh K6VUG will set up for tracking and working Satellites

10 meters - Don Amyx N6DA.

15 meters - Deborah AG6HJ - Greg WY6P will supply the 15M YAGI again.

20 meters - Bernhard AE6YN.- Al to Provide 20M YAGI again.

40 meters - Steve Wilson KA6S 40M Captain. For your first contacts try out 40M.

80 meters - After dark convert the 20M to 80M.

Need a volunteer to be the POWERMASTER...Organize the generators, power cords, distribution and buy gas. There will be a lot of us to help you in this task. We have all the equipment, e.g., gas cans, generators, extension chords, etc. - just need someone to organize the collection, transport and setup of the Field Day emergency power system. Remember, we can only use emergency power in 'A' class.

Newark ARES is setting up the VHF/UHF station again this year.

Potluck - one volunteer (different than the people above) to head up or do the following:

1. Need two people to order and pick up two trays of entries for Saturday at 5PM. Last year it was Chinese Orange Chicken and Indian tray of Curry Chicken.

General flow for the weekend:

June 22nd - Start station setup at 11AM. Have a lunch for the workers. Everyone is invited to setup a tent and sleep over night at the park.

June 23rd - Start operating at 11AM. Stop for the potluck at 5PM. Operate all night or as late as you can stay awake. Crash in your tent for a few hours sleep.

June 24th - For those who stayed all night someone will go out and buy some coffee and breakfast. Operate until 11AM - tear down the FD equipment and leave the park like we found it.

Our wish this year is that everyone who is in town on the 22nd, 23rd & 24th visit the SBARA FD site, even if it is just to "say hello" but preferably to give a hand on the 22nd with the setup or operate on the 23rd. We could use some 'muscle power' from members who are 50yrs and younger. The 'Old Timers' would greatly appreciate the help.

73,
Al
wt6k@arrl.net

ARRL Field Day!

Field Day is June 23-24, 2012!

Field Day is a contest, an emergency preparedness exercise, a public relations demonstration, a great event for clubs, or just a fun way to get on the air? Field Day is ALL these things! Hams set up away from commercial power and normal installations for 24 hours in June.



Meeting Highlights and Goals

- Field Day Planning
- Volunteers Needed for Events
- Proposed Station Configurations



[Do1Thing](#)

SBARA has joined the ranks of Media. Be sure to check us out on Facebook. SBARA's address is:

www.facebook.com/groundplane

Come on up and check us out and help keep the site going strong!

Support SBAR's Monthly



Fremont Area "T" Hunt — Find the Fox!

About April's "Fremont area" Transmitter Hunt.

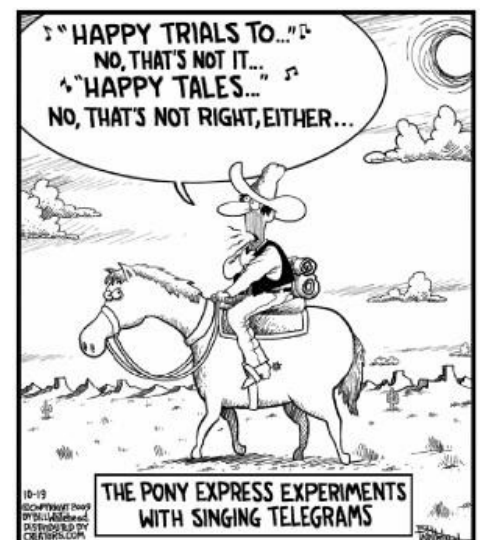
The hunt was, as always, the first Saturday and as always the start point was on a hillside in Warm Springs district SE of 680 and Mission Blvd South, at Zapotek Drive and Joshua Place. The transmitter came on as scheduled, at 5pm. The signal was weak and seemed to me, using body fade, to be in the general direction of Alviso. As often, I was teamed up with Pete, N6YIF in his Doppler equipped car. We won with 12.5 miles. The fox location was in Lakewood Park about a mile west of Great America at the SW corner of the hunt area. The shortest possible route was probably 12.3 miles. As I recall, there were 7 teams in the hunt.

Doppler systems are nice toys but can be better at getting you to the fox first than with the winning mileage. I often win using only body fade and signal strength with an HT so if you are new to these hunts, that will be enough to get you started.

As per tradition, the winner(s) are invited to hide at the next Fremont area hunt so, since Pete will not be back from San Francisco in time to hide, I will be the "fox". I expect it will be easier than this month's hunt. If you wish to compete you must start hunting from the start point. If you start hunting from home or elsewhere, please check in with me on the talk-in repeater, 147.015+, so I will expect you and not turn off the fox before you arrive. The fox will be on (146.565 MHz) until the last hunter arrives or 8pm, whichever comes first. After the hunt we get together for "pizza" and chit chat at a local pizza place to be determined near the end of the hunt. Non hunters are welcome to join us but will have to tune in to the talk-in to find out where.

Don Safer

KC6IPO



Ham Nation Radio Show

Check out this web site: <http://twit.tv/show/ham-nation>

Ham Nation is a weekly ham radio show organized by Gordon West and Bob Heil. They usually showcase someone in Ham Radio. Check show #42. The show interviews a young lady that earned her ham license when 8 or 9 years old. She just completed her masters at MIT, and is now working on her engineering PhD at Stanford.

Gordon West has published many ham radio license study books. Search for Gordon West on Amazon, and you will see his many books.

Bob Heil owns a microphone company that has built microphones and sound systems for the biggest names in the music business since the mid 60's. He started doing sound systems for concerts and is now in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. He is also a Ham and makes mikes for the Ham Radio world.

See: <http://www.heilsound.com/amateur/index.htm>

Also: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heil_Microphones

And: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob_Heil

Show #39 is also impressive, with a young Ham. Each show runs about 30 minutes.

Bob Heil has a You Tube video titled "Bob Heil Audio Talk Part 1", recorded at the National Hamfest in the UK, 2011. You will probably have to click on the next part number, for all 5 parts.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKclZr9Cxul&feature=plcp&context=C4a71d73VDvjVQa1PpcFMLa1San5pG44BSFpzqG_WWe1DMOd3ce_0%3D

73,
Leroy Higgins
KI6MES

Also Leroy provided the following information to us to take a look at this video for some really neat information:

Satellites in the Park

Several Weekends in May and June

Join us for some enjoyable sessions to gain experience in working amateur satellites, ahead of Field Day 2012, and have some fun doing it. For more information, please visit www.sbara.org and click on the "Workshops" link at the left.



Ham Radio Nation
Bob Heil and Gordon West



Samuel F.B. Morse Mansion - Locust Grove NY

The NY Hudson Valley Mansion of Samuel Finneas Breezy Morse. The view from the bedrooms in the tower out to the Hudson is a multi-million-dollar view. In an quiet honorific, when we ham radio operators say or code "Fine Business" or FB to each other it is in the honor of Morse's middle two initials.



Slow CW Net

The Slow CW net is taking place every Thursday and Sunday night at 7:30 pm on 144.230 MHz.

You need an "all mode" (i.e. not just an FM) radio in order to follow.

The net has now its own e-mail address. Please contact us here:
"SF Bay CW Enthusiasts" <sf-bay-cw-enthusiasts at googlegroups.com>

—... —
Bernhard AE6YN

The ARRL East Bay Section web page has moved.

The new URL is <http://www.arrleastbaysection.org/>

Don't forget to update this information in your bookmarks, club newsletters and on your club web pages.

ARRL East Bay Section
Section Manager: James R Latham, AF6AQ
af6aq@arrl.org

SBARA
2012 Field Day Location
Operating as KU6S
Multi—Op Operation



SBARA
2012 Field Day Potluck—World
Famous Event All Members are
Encouraged to Bring their dish to
Share. More details coming soon.
Watch this Space!!



Maker Faire®

Important!

Club Auction of Equipment

At a special meeting in April the SBARA Board of Directors approved the auction of certain club owned equipment. The approved process is to first have a silent auction at a SBARA meeting for the membership. Then any equipment that did not get purchased will be put up on eBay for auction. At the SBARA meeting the equipment will be available for your inspection and you will have the opportunity to make an offer if you want any of the displayed items. The board has decided that there will be a 'starting' bid price based on the items 'fair market value'. The dates will be announced in advance for all members to attend.

SBARA BOD

Tri-City VE Test Dates

Exams will be administered at Hurricane Electric, 48233 Warm Springs Blvd., Fremont.

Contact: Bernhard, ae6yn at arrl dot net for info. \$15 fee. Walk-ins allowed.

Tri-City VE Session Dates 2012

Sat, May 12, 9:00 - 11:30 am

Tue, Jun 14, 6:30 - 9:00 pm

Sat, Jul 14, 9:00 - 11:30 am

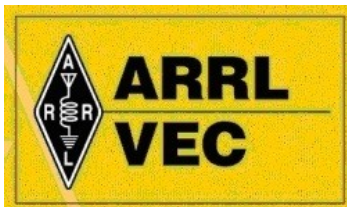
Tue, Aug 14, 6:30 - 9:00 pm

Sat, Sep 8, 9:00 - 11:30 am

Tue, Oct 9, 6:30 - 9:00 pm

Sat, Nov 10, 9:00 - 11:30 am

Tue, Dec 11, 6:30 - 9:00 pm



Power for Field Day
Gas to AC/DC



Have you thought about
upgrading yet?

SBARA has many VE Test Sessions
to get you that Upgrade!!



ARRL -- Your One-Stop Resource for Amateur Radio News and Information

[Join or Renew Today!](#) ARRL membership includes [QST](#), Amateur Radio's most popular and informative journal, delivered to your mailbox each month.

Subscribe to [NCJ -- the National Contest Journal](#). Published bi-monthly, features articles by top contesters, letters, hints, statistics, scores, NA Sprint and QSO Parties.

Subscribe to [QEX -- A Forum for Communications Experimenters](#). Published bi-monthly, features technical articles, construction projects, columns and other items of interest to radio amateurs and communications professionals.

Free of charge to ARRL members: [Subscribe](#) to the *ARES E-Letter* (monthly public service and emergency communications news), the *ARRL Contest Update* (bi-weekly contest newsletter), Division and Section news alerts -- and much more!

Find us on [Facebook](#). Follow us on [Twitter](#).

ARRL offers a wide array of [products](#) to enhance your enjoyment of Amateur Radio

[Donate](#) to the fund of your choice -- support programs not funded by member dues!

The ARRL Letter is published Thursdays, 50 times each year. ARRL members and registered guests may subscribe at no cost or unsubscribe by editing their [profile](#).

Gender Association in the English Language

An English teacher was explaining to his students the concept of gender association in the English language, he noted how hurricanes at one time were given only female names, and how ships and planes were usually referred to as "she". One of the students raised her hand and asked, "what gender is a computer?"

The teacher wasn't certain, so he divided the class into two groups: males in one, females in another, and asked them to decide if the computer should be masculine or feminine. Both groups were asked to give four reasons for their recommendations.

The group of women concluded that computers should be referred to as masculine because:

- In order to get their attention, you have to turn them on.
- They have a lot of data but are still clueless.
- They are supposed to help you solve your problems, but half the time, they ARE the problem.
- As soon as you commit to one, you realize that, if you had waited a little longer, you could have had a better model.

The men, on the other hand, decided that computers should definitely be referred to as feminine because:

- No one but their creator understands their internal logic.
- The native language they used to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else.
- Even your smallest mistakes are stored in long-term memory for later retrieval.
- As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your paycheck on accessories for it.

Source: http://www.bcdxc.org/words_of_humor.htm

Enjoy!
Umesh, K6VUG

SBARA Calendar Looking Forward

- Fri May 11, 6 pm pre SBARA Meeting dinner at Zorbas, 46505 Mission Blvd.
- Fri May 11, 7:30 pm SBARA membership meeting, Hurricane Electric, 760 Mission Ct.
- Sat May 12, 9:00 – 11:30 pm Tri-City VE session, Hurricane Electric, 48233 Warm Springs Blvd.
- Sun May 13, 7:30 pm Slow CW net, 144.230 MHz
- Mon May 14, 7:30 pm SBARA net, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, 103.5Hz sub tone
- Tue May 15, 7:30 pm ARES net, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, 103.5Hz sub tone
- Thu May 17, 7:30 pm Fremont ARES meeting, 3300 Capitol, Building A
- Thu May 17, 7:30 pm Slow CW net, 144.230 MHz
- Sat May 19, and Sun May 20 – Maker Faire!
- Sun May 20, 7:30 pm Slow CW net, 144.230 MHz
- Mon May 21, 7:30 pm SBARA net, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, 103.5Hz sub tone
- Tue May 22, 7:30 pm ARES net, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, 103.5Hz sub tone
- Thu May 24, 7:30 pm Slow CW net, 144.230 MHz
- Sun May 27, 7:30 pm Slow CW net, 144.230 MHz
- Mon May 28, 7:00 pm SBARA board meeting, Mission Coffee, 151 Washington Blvd.
- Mon May 28, 7:30 pm SBARA net, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, 103.5Hz sub tone
- Tue May 29, 7:30 pm ARES net, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, 103.5Hz sub tone
- Thu May 31, 7:30 pm Slow CW net, 144.230 MHz
- Sun Jun 3, 7:30 pm Slow CW net, 144.230 MHz
- Mon Jun 4, 7:30 pm SBARA net, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, 103.5Hz sub tone
- Tue Jun 5, 7:30 pm ARES net, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, 103.5Hz sub tone
- Thu Jun 7, 7:30 pm Slow CW net, 144.230 MHz
- Fri Jun 8, 6 pm pre SBARA Meeting dinner at Zorbas, 46505 Mission Blvd.
- Fri Jun 8, 6 pm SBARA membership meeting, Hurricane Electric, 760 Mission Ct.

Get Involved with SBARA

...come to a monthly meeting.

Our regular meetings take place the second Friday of the month at Hurricane Electric. Pre-Meeting social dinner begins at 6pm. Then at 7pm our meeting social begins with the monthly meeting starting at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend, regardless of whether you are a member. Bring a friend! Or if you're thinking about becoming a ham, come and learn about the hobby!

...become a member.

Membership is open to all licensed radio amateurs. The annual membership fee of \$35 help support the upkeep of our repeater, as well as participate in the Annual Field Day, plus other communication events.

...join a fox hunt.

On the Saturday of the month (around 7pm) organizes a good old fashioned fox hunt. The starting point is in Fremont, Ca.

...take a VE test.

VE testing is scheduled throughout the year on the second Saturday of the month on even months and on the second Tuesday of the month. Details are in this issue of the Groundplane.

ARRL Timely News

We are excited to announce two new ARRL membership benefits that will be introduced in June 2012.

In addition to the print copy of *QST*, all members will have access to an online, digital edition of *QST* at no extra cost. You will be able to access *QST* from anywhere--on nearly any computer, laptop, mobile device, Smartphone and tablet (including Apple iPad, iPhone, and devices using the Android operating system).

Also in June, members will gain access to archived issues of *QST* from December 1915 to the present (previously, only issues through 2007 were available to members). If you are familiar with the current periodicals archive (which serves images of pages), that platform will be expanded to include all of *QST* from December 1915 through December 2011. A second, new archive will be introduced for issues beginning January 2012, featuring enhanced functionality including full-text search.

Be Prepared!
Members must have a valid ARRL website login to access the current digital edition of *QST* and archived editions. For a smooth launch of these exciting new benefits, and so that you will be able to quickly access the digital version of *QST* as soon it becomes available, we are e-mailing you some information that will help you login to the ARRL website prior to launch.

Additional information may be found at arrl.org

SB SPCL @ ARL \$ARLX003

ARLX003 Annual Armed Forces Day Cross-band Test Scheduled for May 12

ZCZC AX03

QST de W1AW

Special Bulletin 3 ARLX003

From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT May 2, 2012

To all radio amateurs

SB SPCL ARL ARLX003

ARLX003 Annual Armed Forces Day Cross-band Test Scheduled for May 12

The Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard are co-sponsoring the annual Military/Amateur Radio Cross-band Communications Test in celebration of the 62nd anniversary of Armed Forces Day (AFD). Although the actual Armed Forces Day is celebrated on the third Saturday in May -- May 19 in 2012 -- the AFD Military/Amateur Cross-band Communications Test will be conducted on May 12 to prevent conflict with the Dayton Hamvention, scheduled for May 18-20.

The annual celebration features traditional military-to-amateur cross band communications SSB voice and Morse code tests. These tests give Amateur Radio operators and short wave listeners an opportunity to demonstrate their individual technical skills and to receive recognition from the appropriate military radio station for their proven expertise. QSL cards will be provided to those stations making contact with the military stations.

Military-to-amateur cross-band operations will take place on the dates and time in UTC on the frequencies listed for each station. Voice contacts will include operations in single sideband voice (SSB). Some stations, depending on propagation and staffing, may not operate the entire period. Participating military stations will transmit on selected military MARS frequencies and listen for Amateur Radio stations in the amateur bands. The military station operator will announce the specific amateur band frequency being monitored. Duration of each voice contact should be limited to 1-2 minutes.

The schedules and frequencies of participating military stations can be found in PDF format on the web at:

http://www.netcom.army.mil/MARS/docs/AMC_Test_2012.pdf

NNNN

/EX

Fremont Repeaters & Net Information

Are you looking for your favorite Repeater? Here is information you can use!

WA6PWW— 147.015 + 600Khz, PL 103.5	600Khz, PL 123.0 K6AIR—441.525 +5Mhz, PL 123.0
WA6PWW—223.900— 500Khz, PL 107.2	ARES Net Meeting— Tuesday Evenings @ 7:30pm on 147.015+600Khz, PL 103.5
WA6PWW—442.600 +5Mhz, PL107.2	
K6AIR—146.940—	

Time to dust off those Keys....

The Slow CW net is taking place
Every Thursday and Sunday night at 7:30 pm on 144.230MHz.

The net has now its own e-mail address. Please contact us here:
“SF Bay CW Enthusiasts” <sf-bay-cw-enthusiasts at googlegroups.com>

—... ..—

Bernhard AE6YN

SBARA Meeting Location Second Friday of the Month

Our meeting location is at:
Hurricane Electric.
The address in Fremont is:
760 Mission Court — Come to the meeting.
Bring your HF transceiver, antenna or HT !
Talk-In 147.015Mhz. +600
Mingle with your fellow SBARA members!

The South Bay Amateur Radio Association., is a general interest amateur radio club serving the Fremont Tri-City area. Records indicate the club has been in existence since at least 1974, and has functioned continuously ever since. We are an ARRL Special Service Club, an California not-for-profit corporation, and a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization as specified in IRS Statutes. We sponsor training classes for new hams, license examination sessions, and participate in various public service events. If you have a specialized amateur radio interest, chances are you can share it with one or more of our club members.

The South Bay Amateur Radio Association meets on the 2nd Friday of every month at Hurricane Electric in Fremont. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM and includes social time, a business portion and a program of interest.

All persons interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Families are welcome.

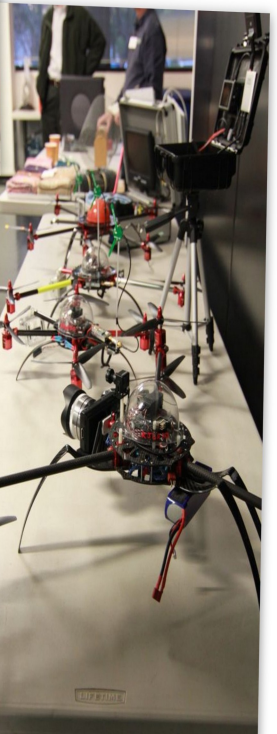
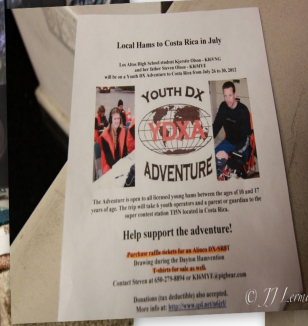
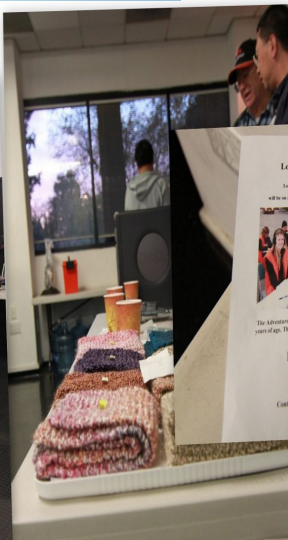
We hope to see you there!



**South Bay Amateur Radio
Association - SBARA
Founded 1974
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**Web Site — www.sbara.org
Facebook—[www.facebook.com/
groundplane](http://www.facebook.com/groundplane)**

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Refreshments
Open Position



SBARA - Groundplane

The Groundplane is published monthly by the South Bay Amateur Radio Association. Articles and letters are always welcome. The normal deadline for material is the 20th day of each month for the next month's news-letter. Articles can be sent by email to hamradio at Comcast dot net or via U.S. Mail. Contact the Editor for details and submission guidelines.



Upcoming SBARA Events

May Action Packed Meeting

May 11th, 2012 at 7:30pm Hurricane Electric, Fremont

Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC– May 12th @ 6:30pm at Hurricane Electric – 48233 Warm Springs Blvd. Fremont. **Contact:** Bernhard, ae6yn at arrl dot net for info. \$15 fee.

***Additional information is described at Website,
www.sbara.org***

Select License Exams from the Navigation URL.

South Bay Amateur Radio Association — SBARA

The Ground Plane — KU6S

<http://www.sbara.org>

P.O. Box 8401

Fremont, Ca.

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE